

PLANNING CITY POWER

O. J. Foreman
P. O. Drawer 127
Monmouth, Illinois

TORRANCE PRESS

The Fastest Growing Community Newspaper in America

5¢

100,000
READERS
Phone Torrance 1185

VOLUME IV THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1953 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 120 NUMBER 44

FILL RECREATION POST

Carpenter Gets Nod in Split Vote

Frank H. Carpenter was re-appointed to head the city's recreation department in a split vote of the City Council Tuesday night, after the sole other candidate indicated that he did not want the job.

Carpenter, whose post as head of the department has been under fire, was one of two successful candidates in the recent civil service examinations for the position.

"Politics" The other successful candidate, Henry Van Bellehem, an employee of the Los Angeles recreation system and Torrance residence, told certain city officials at a recent closed-door session that he did not want the job. He reportedly turned down the post because of "politics."

Mayor Votes Under civil service rules the Council was privileged to select any of the three top scorers in the exam. At the City Council meeting of January 27, Mayor Mervin Schwab declined to vote on the appointment of one of the two candidates.

When Van Bellehem declined the job, this left the Mayor free to cast his ballot with Councilmen Harvey Spelman and Willys Blount in favor of Carpenter.

Councilmen Nick Drals and Victor E. Benstead voted against the appointment.

Wife of Local Executive Dies

Mrs. Felicia V. Gill of 3208 La Selva, Palos Verdes Estates, passed away last Monday night at the San Pedro Community Hospital. Death followed a prolonged illness. Long active in civic affairs, she was a member of the Palos Verdes Women's Club and the Women's Guild of the Neighborhood Church. She is survived by her husband, LaVerne N. Gill, Superintendent of the local American-Standard Plant, and children Phillip, 21, and Marion Jane, 15.

Baptist Men to Meet Tomorrow

The men's brotherhood of the First Baptist Church will hold their monthly dinner meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the church annex, it was reported yesterday.

Torrance Dollar Days

NEXT WEEK-END!

WATCH THIS NEWSPAPER FOR HUNDREDS OF BARGAINS!

MARCH OF DIMES FUND NEARS GOAL

Mrs. Clara A. Conner, chairman of the Torrance March of Dimes fund-raising campaign, expressed the opinion today that the drive will go over the top before the close of the campaign.

"Our goal of \$10,000 is in sight now," she commented, "and I feel confident that Torrance citizens will see that we reach the top mark."

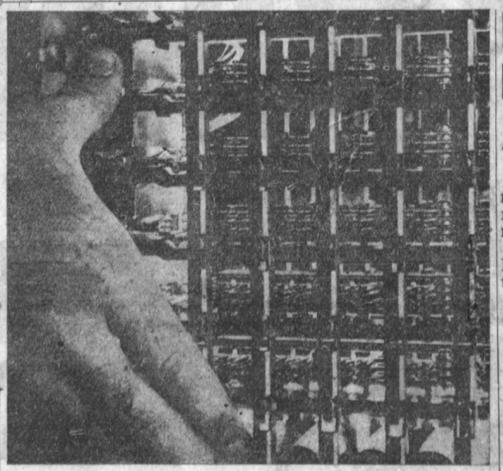
March of Mothers Almost \$7,500 has been collected to date, including the \$3,700 raised by the March of Mothers, Mrs. Conner reported.

She pointed out that not all mail return cards are in, and that the miniature iron lungs which were placed throughout the city have not yet been picked up.

Reports In Reported so far with sums over \$25 are: school children, \$1,354; Return mail cards, \$1,819; March of Mothers, \$3,705; Junior Woman's Club, \$173; Girl Scout Troop 610, \$77; Navy Supply Depot, \$76; Koda Camp Fire Girls, Prudential Life Insurance, \$58; Torrance Lions, \$43; Delta Omega, \$25; Mayfair Creamery, \$30; Camp Fire Girls, \$25; and a few individuals.

Donate Any Time Mrs. Conner stated that donations to the fight against polio can be made at any time during the year.

She expressed her thanks to all who have contributed so far and to the many persons who are assisting her in the drive.



MENTAL GIANT—Basic unit of new "crossbar" telephone system is the crossbar switch shown above. A "mental marvel," the new system has a super memory for placing telephone calls automatically. The instrument is now being installed in Pacific Telephone's Torrance central office building.

Phone System with Super Memory Here

"Crossbar," a communications system with a super memory, is coming to Torrance. District Manager Frank G. Jordan of Pacific Telephone said that crossbar is the name of the latest type dial switching equipment now being installed in the company's new central office building at 1307 Cravens avenue.

Installation of the intricate equipment is costing the telephone company \$885,000. It will become operative on May 31, when the dial system here is activated.

Describing the new system as a "super robot" with the ability to think and act instantly, he said it gets its name from the basic unit of equipment—the crossbar switch—which is composed of vertical and horizontal bars of electrical relays. The switch is characterized by its trouble-free operation.

Crossbar's infallible memory is unique among dial systems. Signaled by the lifting of a receiver, the equipment finds the location of the calling party's line among the thousands which terminate in the office. It then memorizes the location, the type of service of the subscriber and the telephone number.

Storing this information in its "brain," the equipment searches for an idle pathway. When the number is dialed, crossbar also

Re-Open Well Baby Clinic in Carson Area

Arrangements have been made through the efforts of the Carson Chamber of Commerce to re-establish the Well-Baby Clinic in the Women's Clubhouse at 220th and Main Sts., according to Lloyd Desmond of the Chamber.

The clinic formerly met in a Keystone school, but was discontinued because of crowded conditions. Date and hour of the first meeting of the clinic will be disclosed soon, it was reported.

Dave Egan was chairman of the drive to find suitable quarters for the county-supported clinic.

L. O. Griffiths reported at Monday's meeting of the Chamber that his committee on traffic safety has completed a survey of traffic and safety conditions near elementary schools in the Carson area. He disclosed that the county has approved 95 per cent of their recommendations and that a number of stop signs and pedestrian crosswalks have been installed at critical intersections.

LOCAL FIRM ASKED

In a move to get lower, more uniform electric power rates for Torrance, Councilman Victor E. Benstead set the wheels in motion to establish a municipal power system here.

Pointing out that Torrance pays one of the highest rates in the entire South Bay and Harbor areas, the councilman declared that unless the Southern California Edison Company indicates a willingness to equalize power rates, this city should procure and distribute its own electric power.

Increase Sought The action follows an application by the utilities firm to the State Public Utilities Commission for an increase in rates.

Lou Jenkins, top local official of the Edison Company, told the Press yesterday that the rates in use are based on the cost of service to customers.

Estimated Eight Torrance's rates are somewhat higher because of the wide area receiving Edison power. He declared that there are fewer customers per mile of electric power line here than in such densely populated cities as Redondo Beach and Hawthorne.

He added that as land here becomes developed, the rates would no doubt be more equitable.

Water Rates Cited Benstead stated Tuesday that when water rates being charged locally by a private firm became exorbitant, the city established a municipal water system. The same, he declared, could be done in the case of electric power if that becomes necessary.

The City Council agreed and voted unanimously to start the ball rolling at their agenda meeting next Wednesday.

YMCA Fund Drive Still Behind Quota

Only \$3,666 of the quota of \$13,605 in the current YMCA fund raising drive has been raised so far, according to Stan Roberts, executive secretary of the Y.

In a report made Tuesday night, it was revealed that the industrial section, under Robert I. Flomert, has raised \$2,042. Three other sections reporting were as follows: Professional under Don Hitchcock, \$542; Commercial under Charles Mullen, \$815; and Field under Art Sieslaff and Harry Harper, \$266.

The drive ends on Feb. 24, and Roberts expressed the hope that the remainder of the campaign will be more successful.

Another complete report is due Tuesday night.

Special Committee to Study Parking Here

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce, recognizing the need for a thorough study of parking problems in the downtown shopping area, has named a special committee to review the information and results of a survey recently completed by the Torrance Parking Authority and to study existing conditions and future expansion, according to Dale Isenberg, executive secretary.

Slated for top priority study by the committee is a plan announced by George Binder, owner of considerable downtown business property, to create an assessment district to provide funds for off-street parking lots.



BEATING THE HEAT—Unseasonal warm weather is sending thousands of Southern Californians to the beach and has two young Torranceites finding relief in a wading pool. Beaches, wading pools, and just plain sun tans have been in order for the past two weeks.

Home of the Week Series Begins in Press Today

The Torrance Press this week announces the beginning of a series of distinctive, modern home plans that will be made available to our readers. The "Home of the Week" will feature a complete lay-out of floor plans and an exterior front elevation of a beautiful family dwelling. Complete plans and blueprints of each model as easily available to our readers.

The home plans to be presented here each week represent the skill and knowledge of one of the country's leading architects and home designers. LAY-OUT AND PERSPECTIVE SHOWN Plans furnished in conjunction with the lay-outs shown in this and following issues will help save prospective home builders hundreds of dollars, and long delays in building.

The set for each home plan includes complete architect's blueprints, plus a 16-page "fill-in" specification guide, a conversion detail sheet (which shows how to convert plans for a frame house into brick or block construction, or vice versa), and a budget and analysis form.

ADDITIONAL SET AVAILABLE FOR BANK Additional sets of the prints will be available for the bank or loan agency, if the builder so desires.

For further details on this excellent home-building plan offer, call Torrance 1185 or come to the Torrance Press office at 1406 Cravens ave.

See the first in the home series on page 12 of this issue of the Press.

Novice Photogs Busy With Contest Shots

Entries are being received now in the First Annual Torrance Press Amateur Photography Contest, which will run for six weeks.

Deadline for the first of the six weekly judgments is Monday evening. Winners of the first week's entries will be announced in next Thursday's issue of the Press.

Prizes Sold Fifty dollars in cash is the first prize being offered. Second prize in the all-amateur competition is a home photo developing outfit awarded by A-1 Photo Supplies, 1312 Sartori Ave. Third prize is an Eastman Duaflex camera and six rolls of film, donated by McCown Drug Stores, 1327 El Prado Ave.

Top winner in each of the six separate weekly contests will be finalists.

From the six finalists, first, second and third place winners will be chosen.

Originality Judging of the photos will be based on originality and composition. Any amateur lens-enthusiast between the ages of eight and 80 is eligible, and age will be taken into consideration in judging.

Any amateur photographer living within the circulation area of this newspaper may enter as many as six separate pictures in the contest, but no more than one per week.

Entries may either be brought or mailed to the Torrance Press office, 1406 Cravens Ave., along with the name, address and age of the entrant.

Negatives must be included with any picture that measures under 5 by 7 inches. Pictures and negatives will be held in the Press office for the duration of the contest, at the end of which owners may claim them here. No pictures will be returned by mail.

ALONDRA LOST BY NEW LAW

Failure upon the part of the City Council to act in time apparently has lost for Torrance the chance to annex Alondra Park with its million dollar golf course, swimming pool and club building.

Had the city fathers acted prior to the adoption by the legislature at its last-session of a statute requiring consent of at least half of the owner of property to be annexed, it could now have the park, it was pointed out at the City Council meeting Tuesday night.

Darby Protests This was after the Council had "fled" a protest from Supervisor Raymond V. Darby indicating the county says "no" and that ends it. City Attorney James Hall told the Press after the meeting that the Council waited too long, and could have had the park if it had acted prior to the action of the legislature.

Forrest G. Murdock, president of El Camino College, also protested, indicating 100 percent opposition to the annexation move. However, he had been assured, time and again, and to his apparent satisfaction, that the proponents of the annexation of the park to Torrance had no intention of including the college campus in the move.

Would Increase Value It was pointed out that the park was desired for its value and as a means of annexing residential and industrial property north of the park which would add tremendously to the assessed valuation of Torrance.

Apparently, Gardena also has been stopped in the move to annex the property, unless the act is amended.

Taxpayers Tried Torrance Unified Taxpayers has for many months been trying to get the Council to act until it is now too late.

Two City Councilmen, Nick (Continued on page 3)

Rites Conducted for Pioneer Businessman

Funeral rites were conducted yesterday for Henry Frank Ulbright, pioneer businessman here, who died Sunday evening at the age of 56.

The death, attributed to a cerebral hemorrhage, occurred at California Lutheran Hospital, where Mr. Ulbright had been convalescing from an operation performed recently.

Opens Print Shop A native of Grdley, Illinois, the deceased came to Torrance 29 years ago. In 1924 he opened a print shop, the Automatic Printing Company, now located at 1316 Cabrillo ave.

A charter member and past president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, Mr. Ulbright was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the Bert S. Crossland American Legion Post. He was well known here as an amateur photographer.

Entombment Rev. Paul Wenske of the first Lutheran Church of Torrance conducted funeral services yesterday at Stone and Myers Chapel. Entombment at Angelus Abbey in Compton followed.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Lillian Ulbright, of 1434 El Prado, a daughter, Mrs. Dolores Campbell, of 923 Patronella Ave., and a grandson, Craig Campbell. He is also survived by two sisters, Dorothy Westerbelt of Benton Harbor,



—Dale Lee Photo
HENRY F. ULBRIGHT
... pioneer passes